

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D N T I A L BUDAPEST 0688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, HU

SUBJ: CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY

REF: A. STATE 81800 (2 MAY 73); B) STATE 159414

(11 AUGUST 73; C) BUDAPEST 2924 17 AUGUST 73)

D) BUDAPEST 0292

1. ACTION REQUESTED: IN THREE RECENT INFORMAL CONTACTS INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS (KKI) OFFICIALS POLGAR AND PETER INDICATED TO PAO THAT HUNGARY ABOUT READY TO GO AHEAD ON CULTURAL AGREEMENT. POLGAR INDICATED THEY COULD ACCEPT SUBSTANCE USG DRAFT (REFS A ANDSV) EXCEPT FOR GOH NEED TO HAVE AGREEMENT IN TWO SECTIONS, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESPECTIVELY, AND INABILITY ACCEPT PORTION DEALING WITH INFORMATION. POLGAR RAISED INFORMAL QUERY ON HOW TO PROCEED IN LIGHT OF ABOVE GOH POSITIONS. DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE REQUESTED FOR PAO TO ADVISE POLGAR THAT HE (PAO) UNDER-

STANDS USG POSITION CONTINUES TO BE THE SAME AS WHEN LAST USG DRAFT OFFICIALLY SUBMITTED TO MFA, NAMELY THAT US PREPARED TO SEND GROUP TO BUDAPEST TO ASSIST IN NEGOTIATIONS, USING APPROACH IN PARA 7 BELOW. END ACTION REQUESTED.

2. WITH TIMING APPARENTLY RELATED TO PROGRESSIVE RESOLUTION OF
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DEAK CASE, KKI HAS RECENTLY RAISED PENDING CULTURAL EXCHANGE

AGREEMENT WITH DACHI ON THREE OCCASIONS, BEGINNING WITH CONVERSATION OF KKI OFFICIAL PETER AND PAO (REF D) IN WHICH A SERIES OF DETAILED QUESTIONS WAS ASKED ON WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT. (MFA HAS NOT RAISED AGREEMENT WITH US IN RECENT WEEKS, AND MAY BE WAITING TO HEAR FROM KKI).

3. AT WORKING LUNCH FOLLOWING VIENNA PAO MEETING, PAO DESCRIBED TO POLGAR AND KKI OFFICIAL PETER MANNER IN WHICH VARIOUS CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT, BETWEEN US AND SOME NEIGHBORING EE COUNTRIES. THIS DESCRIPTION WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT INTEREST BY POLGAR AND PETER, WHO STATED THAT SUCH PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES WOULD BE VERY SATISFACTORY AND USEFUL TO GOH.

4. ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO POLGAR SAID TO PAO THAT GOH HAD MADE POLICY DECISION TO PROCEED WITH CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND SUBSTANTIVE EXPANSION OF CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH US IN SPITE OF FACT THAT QUOTE MANY IMPORTANT BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING MFN, STILL PENDING UNQUOTE. POLGAR FURTHER STATED QUOTE HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME GOH COULD NOT POSSIBLY ENTER INTO WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH USG ON INFORMATION UNQUOTE. POLGAR CONCLUDED SAYING THAT IF USG WILLING TO ACCEPT NEW GOH DRAFT WITHOUT INFORMATION REFERENCES GOH WAS READY TO INVITE US DELEGATION TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT. ASKED WHETHER IT BEST NOW TO PROCEED BY FORMALLY ASKING US WHETHER WE INSISTED ON INFORMATION PARA, WHETHER THEY SHOULD GIVE US A NEW TEXT TO STUDY, OR WHETHER DELEGATION SHOULD BE INVITED TO NEGOTIATE, EMBOFF MADE NO DIRECT REPLY TO QUESTION BUT COMMENTED THAT INFORMATION RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON US EMBASSY DURING HEIGHT OF COLD WAR PERIOD ARE INAPPROPRIATE NOW AND ARE AN OBSTACLE TO NORMAL WORK ANY DIPLOMATIC MISSION HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT TO CARRY OUT.

5. MARCH 21 AMBASSADOR MADE A BOOK PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, AT WHICH POLGAR WAS PRESENT. PLGAR THEN AGAIN RAISED CULTURAL AGREEMENT ISSUE WITH PAO, ASKING WHAT ANSWER LATTER COULD GIVE TO POLGAR'S EARLIER QUESTION. PAO REPLIED HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO GIVE AN ANSWER BECAUSE A QUESTION ABOUT A FORMAL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE USG TO THE MFA SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE SAME OFFICIAL CHANNEL. POLGAR INDICATED MAIN CONCERN OF GOH WAS THAT IF US DELEGATION WERE TO COME TO BUDAPEST AND WE THEN FAILED TO REACH CULTURAL AGREEMENT BECAUSE

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OF INABILITY TO AGREE ON INFORMATION ISSUE, A SERBACK TO US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS COULD RESULT AT VERY TIME GOH WISHES TO ACHIEVE THE OPPOSITE

RESULT. POLGAR RENEWED REQUEST PAO GIVE ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION, ASKING IT BE GIVEN IF POSSIBLE BY COB MARCH 26 PRIOR TO POLGAR'S DEPARTURE FOR A FOREIGN TRIP.

6. POLGAR OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO FIND OUT IN ADVANCE OF

NEGOTIATIONS WHETHER WE WILL DROP INFORMATION PROVISION, WHICH WE SHOULD NOT TELL HIM. ON OTHER HAND HE PROBABLY ALSO IS CONCERNED THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT NOT SUCCEED AND A FURTHER PROBLEM MIGHT THUS BE CREATED. OUR GUESS WOULD BE THAT GOH WILL NOT ACCEPT WORD "INFORMATION" IN FINAL TEXT OF AGREEMENT BUT THAT WE MAY FIND WASY TO INCLUDE SOME OF ITS SUBSTANCE EITHER IN SPECIFICS OR BY USING OTHER WORDS. UNTIL WE CAN GET THEM INTO TALKS IT WILL BE HARD TO KNOW. OUR OBJECTIVE, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE TO GUIDE THEM INFORMALLY TOWARDS REPLYING TO OUR PROPOSAL TO NEGOTIATE.

7. EMBASSY THEREFORE PROPOSES THAT PAO BE AUTHORIZED TO GIVE POLGAR A PERSONAL REPLY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:
QUOTE AS I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IT IS THIS. YOU NOW HAVE A FORMAL PROPOSAL FROM US FOR AN AGREEMENT AND OUR STATEMENT THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SEND A GROUP TO BUDAPEST TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS. YOU KNOW OUR VIEWS FROM THAT DRAFT. WE KNOW YOURS FROM YOUR PREVIOUS TEXT. IF THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCES THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS. BUT WE HAVENOT HAD A REPLY FROM YOUR FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND I OBVIOUSLY AM NOT IN A POSITION TO NEGOTIATE INFORMALLY. SO I THINK THE BEST THING WOULD STILL BE IF MFA RESPONDED TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT A DELEGATION COME TO BUDAPDST FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT. WE ASSUME BOTH OF US WOULD ENTER THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH AN INTENTION TO EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO REACH A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT. IF IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT, WE ALSO ASSUME THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD DEAL WITH THE SITUATION IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. UNQUOTE.

8. REQUEST REPLY IF FEASIBLE BY MARCH 25 SO AS TO TRY AND SATISFY POLGAR REQUEST FOR ANSWER BY COB MARCH 26.

9. COMMENT: IN ACCORDANCE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS, WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM RAISING AGREEMENT OURSELVES WITH GOH OFFICIALS FOR NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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WEEKS.
POLGAR'S RE-RAISING OF ISSUE YESTERDAY SHOWS THEY ARE NOW ACTIELY INTERESTED. REPLY OF THE SORT PROPOSED SHOULD GET MATTER BACK INTO MFA, IF THEY ARE REALLY PREPARED TO MOVE, WITH SOME IMPETUS TOWARD THEIR REPLYING FAVORABLY TO OUR APPROACH OF LAST AUGUST. WE INTERPRET PLGAR'S STATEMENT ON DECISION TO GO AHEAD EVEN THROUGH MFN NOT MOVING TO HAVE BEEN A NEW DECISION SOMETIME WITHIN LAST SEVERAL WEEKS.
PEDERSEN

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